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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
SECRET EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

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PLEASE PASS TO GOMPERT/BREMER FOR THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER 28, 1974

FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. REFERENCE HAKTO 42, BEFORE I TELL RUMSFELD THAT YOU ARE "ASTONISHED BY WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID ABOUT THE THREAT DEMOCRATS MIGHT POSE TO PEACE" I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THAT IS NOT AT ALL WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. IN THIS INSTANCE (NOT EXACTLY UNIQUE), WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID AND WHAT THE PRESS REPORTED BEAR ONLY MODEST RESEMBLANCE TO EACH OTHER. IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT EXPLICITLY PRAISED THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS AND THE BIPARTISAN TRADITION. WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO CONVEY WAS THAT A LANDSLIDE VOTE WHICH WOULD ELECT A VETO-PROOF CONGRESS WOULD ALSO BE THE KIND OF VOTE LIKELY TO RETURN A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF "RADICALS" OR AT LEAST THOSE LESS ORIENTED TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. A CONGRESS OF THAT COMPLEXITY OVER WHICH HE HAD LOST ALL CONTROL THROUGH THE VETO COULD, HE SAID, POSE A THREAT TO PEACE. THAT IS ADMITTEDLY A COMPLEX POINT TO GET ACROSS AND HE DID SO WITH INDIFFERENT SUCCESS AT BEST, BUT I AM NOT SURE IT IS A POINT AT WHICH YOU SHOULD REGISTER "ASTONISHMENT." AS A MATTER OF FACT, I SUSPECT HE WAS REALLY TRYING TO DRIVE HOME THE POINT ILLUSTRATED BY THE VOTE ON TURKISH AID.

2. I WILL RAISE THE MATTER WITH RUMSFELD FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, WITH OR WITHOUT POINT ONE, AS YOU CHOOSE.
WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

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